

# Comité International pour l'Universalité de l'UNESCO International Committee for the Universality of UNESCO

Paris April 7, 1976

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*R. Parienti*  
Secrétaire Général

Dear Colleague,

The anti-israeli action launched last year in Geneva will be resumed during the next General Assembly (May 1976) of the World Health Organization. If the sanctions requested by the members of the "Automatic Majority" are voted, the W.H.O. membership of Israël will be suspended. Needless to say the request is based on fallacious claims, and the manoeuvre is clearly political.

It is desirable that the W.H.O. as well as UNESCO, be not involved in the game of power politics. One can easily foresee that such a political action within W.H.O. would trigger reactions from the medical and scientific international community.

The victims of this reaction would of course be W.H.O. itself, and as a counterstroke, the countries which benefit mostly from its assistance, that is the developing countries.

The Director-General of W.H.O. has of course to apply the decisions of the General Assembly. However, the Director-General can, during the discussion, make the delegates of the member States aware of their responsibility, responsibility towards W.H.O. itself and towards the community of nations, and especially of developing nations.

It seems therefore important that the Director-General has the possibilities to bring up the feelings of the Nobel Laureates in Medicine, of the members of the Advisory Council for Medical Research, and of the Experts who are the main springs of the Organization.

If you would agree with this analysis of the situation, would you be willing to write to the Director-General of the W.H.O. (1211 Geneva 27) at your earliest convenience, to express your worries and ask him to stave off what would be a regrettable and harmful event.

*André Lwoff*

Andre LWOFF

Nobel Laureate in Medicine  
Honorary Professor, Pasteur Institute  
President, International Committee against the  
Politicization in the U.N. Specialized Agencies

COMITÉ FRANÇAIS POUR L'UNIVERSALITÉ DE L'UNESCO

c/o Maître Joseph ROUBACHE - 92, avenue d'Iéna, 75016 PARIS